which the running cost for power is about 6 paise per litre and the balance is for repayment of capital. However, the cost is expected to come down further once higher capacity desalination plant is commissioned and run over a long period.

Human trafficking by recruiting agencies

1187. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to check the racket of human traffickers and fake recruiting agents who recruit young women to Gulf countries for sexual activities;

(b) the number of cases that have been detected and reported by the Indian Consulate in the Gulf countries and the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of cases in which erring recruiting agencies have been charged; and

(d) whether Government have introduced any effective measures in the immigrations laws to check the above said rackets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Taking into account the vulnerability of women and on the recommendations of National Commission for Women, instructions were issued on 20.11.2003 to all the Protectors of Emigrants for not granting emigration clearance to women below the age of thirty years intending to go to any foreign country for employment as housemaids/domestic workers. In such cases, the employment contract is required to be mandatorily attested by the concerned Indian Mission.

Miseries of Indians abroad

1188. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unscrupulous recruiting agencies were responsible for the miseries that Indians, especially the labour class had to face in many countries, including United Arab Emirates;